

day of independence be celebrated for all that have called Lebanon home and those abroad who are proud to be defined by the Lebanese history and heritage that contributes to the character of both individuals and nations around the world.

**IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT JAMES  
A.M.E. CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 150 years. The congregation of St. James A.M.E. Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a worship celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the Church at 1002 Sixth Avenue in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, the St. James congregation emerged from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Reverend William Gaines serving as the first pastor in 1864. Today, the physical body of the church serves as a reflection and memorial of past members and pastors who contributed to its preservation. On September 29, 1980, the church was listed on the National Historic Register.

In an 1873 act, the Georgia Legislature granted St. James A.M.E. Church the land on which it stands and the first cathedral construction was completed in 1876. The ornately carved front doors, built by slaves, are the oldest parts of the church and are a reminder of the history of strength and perseverance behind the congregation.

Since its founding, St. James has endured several additions and renovations, all of which help tell the story of the church, its members and its fifty-one former leaders. In 1886, Reverend Larry Thomas oversaw the construction of the bell tower, which still stands today as a symbol of the Church's concrete mission to serve its congregation and community. Reverend Harold I. Bearden, who served from 1940 to 1948, installed the pipe organ that is still heard during church services today.

In 1988, St. James purchased property for a new parsonage, and by 1996, the conversion of the old parsonage into an administrative building was completed under the leadership of Reverend Scottie Swinney. The building now houses offices, a conference room, music room, clothing and food bank, and archives room, which collectively aid in the fulfillment of the church ministry. After Reverend Swinney's tenure, Reverend Richard Washington was pastor of the church. The church is now pastored by Reverend Joseph Baker, Sr.

In 2004, St. James erected an Elevator Tower to accommodate all members of the congregation. The building includes classrooms, accessible bathrooms, a stewardess room, and an elevator that services the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. To commemorate this achievement, a time capsule was deposited behind the Elevator Tower cornerstone to be opened in 2054.

Throughout all of these changes, the church has consistently maintained its presence as a center for spiritual, educational, professional, and civic gatherings within the African American community.

The second oldest church of its denomination in Georgia, St. James A.M.E. Church has served as pillar of faith and community for 150 years. The spirit within the congregation and their commitment to the growth of St. James is both admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia for their dedication to helping one another, serving the community, and above all, worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE  
VILLAGE OF LYONS 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Lyons, Illinois, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Lyons enjoys a long and colorful history, beginning in the late 17th century when the explorers Louis Joliet and Father Pierre Marquette began their quest for a western passage to the Pacific. After deciding to return home to Green Bay, Wisconsin, the explorers learned about a path from the Pottawatomie Native Americans traveling with them, a path that connected the Chicago and the Des Plaines Rivers, and included the future site of the Village of Lyons. Two hundred years later this swampy path would become the Illinois & Michigan Canal, one of the most important canals in the history of the United States, and a primary reason why Chicago became the nation's transportation hub. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which replaced the Illinois & Michigan Canal, remains a critical link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

As Chicago grew so did Lyons, but the residents never forgot the historically important site on which their Village was founded and built. Today, a statue stands at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site to honor that history.

Along the banks of the Des Plaines River sits another historic site, the Hofmann Tower. Built in 1908, the tower sits next to the former site of an electric dam Hofmann built and was meant to attract visitors to the area to enjoy the river and its banks. In 1978, Hofmann Tower was named to the National Register of Historic Places and Mayor Getty is currently working on plans to restore it.

I am proud to represent the Village of Lyons as it prospers today under the leadership of Mayor Chris Getty. On November 15, I will join the mayor and the residents of Lyons at Crystal Sky Banquets to celebrate the village's 125th anniversary.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the residents of Lyons, Illinois on the 125th anniversary of their village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the village continue to thrive as a close community.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN C.W.  
BILL YOUNG

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I mourn the passing of Chairman C.W. Bill Young—an inspiring colleague and an outspoken champion for the United States Military. His passing will leave an enormous void in the U.S. House of Representatives where he has served for 43 years and was admired and respected for his strength, leadership and unwavering commitment to military strength and freedom around the world.

It was my honor to serve with him as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. As the longest serving Republican in the House and former Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee, he was true inspiration to me and every Member who had the privilege to serve our country alongside him. I will miss Chairman Young as a colleague and a friend.

I extend my heartfelt prayers and condolences to Chairman Young's family, especially his wife Beverly, who was his constant companion, champion of military families, and a true inspiration in her own right. The U.S. House of Representatives and the United States of America has lost a hero and he will be sadly missed.

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANON'S  
INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Lebanese American communities in our district, who are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Lebanon's independence. On November 22, 1943, Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea that human rights were global and that it was ready to be a full partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon participated in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America and followed the words expressed by the poet Kahlil Gibran, that "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own." The contributions of those early immigrants and those who followed helped to build our nation.

Since 1965, over 135,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. Ohio has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in our nation and our citizens are richer for it. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values; the result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.